



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12)
FPO AE 09588-1971

Rec 03/11/98
"DECLASSIFIED" *no dish*

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5750
CO/Ser 522
17 APR 98

From: Commanding Officer, USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1998⁷.

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F, Command Histories

1. In accordance with reference (a), USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12) Command History for calendar year 1998 is submitted.

2. This document is classified SECRET due to the presence of Part 4, enclosure (g). Removal of Part 4, enclosure (g) **[IN CLASS FILE]** downgrades this document to CONFIDENTIAL due to the presence of Part 4, enclosure (c). Removal of Part 4, enclosure (c) **[IN CLASS FILE]** downgrades this document to UNCLASSIFIED.

3. For any further requirements or questions, my point of contact is: LTJG (b) (6) or (b) (6)


Daniel P. Shaw

"DECLASSIFIED"

PART 1: COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The primary mission of USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12) is to provide maritime support of Special Operations Forces, such as SEAL team insertion and extraction, tactical swimmer operations, intelligence collection, and operational deception. Secondary missions include coastal patrol, surveillance, and interdiction. PC class ships are intended to operate in medium and low intensity conflict environments.

2. THUNDERBOLT's Chain of Command is presently:

National Command Authority

Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command

Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command

Commander, Special Boat Squadron TWO

USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12)

3. THUNDERBOLT is presently stationed at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia.

4. THUNDERBOLT has a complement of four commissioned officers, including the Commanding Officer, and twenty-four enlisted personnel, including two chief petty officers.

5. THUNDERBOLT is internally organized into three departments: Engineering, Operations, and Weapons. All standard afloat command primary and collateral duties are distributed among all personnel.

PART 2: CHRONOLOGY

A. January 1, 1997 Underway for Key West, Fl. for scheduled port visit.

B. January 2-5, 1997 Inport Key West, Fl. for scheduled port visit.

C. January 6-12, 1997 Underway for Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) in the Straits of Florida and Lower Bahama Islands with embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 7B. Conducted Engineering Training Team/Damage Control Training Team (ETT/DCTT) drills 9 January. Conducted Ship's Training Team (STT) drills 10 January.

D. January 13-15, 1997 Inport Nassau, Bahamas for scheduled port visit. Reception held onboard for the US Ambassador to the Bahamas 14 January.

E. January 16-19, 1997 Underway for CDOPS in the Lower Bahama Islands with embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 7B. Conducted photography exercise and a first ever, proof of mission concept flight quarters between a United States Coast Guard Helicopter and a CYCLONE class Patrol Coastal. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills 17 January.

F. 20 January, 1997 Inport Key West, Fl. Observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

G. January 22-27, 1997 Underway for CDOPS in the Western Caribbean with embarked U.S. Coast Guard LEDET 7B. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills on 23 January and STT drills 24 January.

H. January 28-30, 1997 Inport Georgetown, Grand Cayman Islands for refueling. THUNDERBOLT is awarded the COMNAVSPECWARCOM Silver Trident Award for command excellence in advancement and retention 28 January.

I. January 30 - February 3, 1997 Underway for CDOPS in the Western Caribbean with embarked U.S. Coast Guard LEDET 7B. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills 30 January. Conducted gun shoot 31 January.

J. February 4-5, 1997 Inport Georgetown, Grand Cayman Islands for refueling.

K. February 5-9, 1997 Underway for CDOPS in the Central Caribbean with embarked U.S. Coast Guard LEDET 7B. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills 6 February.

L. February 10, 1997 Inport Key West, Fl. for scheduled port visit.

M. February 11-12, 1997 Underway for Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek, Va.

N. February 13, 1997 Inport NAB Little Creek, Va. Commenced stand down. LTJG (b) (6) reported aboard as prospective Weapons Officer.

O. February 24, 1997 ET2 (b) (6) Re-enlistment held onboard. LT (b) (6) detached, relieved by LTJG (b) (6) (b) (6)

P. February 27, 1997 Underway for Virginia Capes Operating Area (VACAPES OPARES) to conduct combat river raiding craft (CRRC) operations.

Q. February 28, 1997 Anchored overnight north of the entrance to Little Creek harbor. Arrived at NAB Little Creek, Va.

R. March 5, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills inport.

S. March 7, 1997 Conducted safety stand down concerning deployment operational safety issues.

T. March 14-26, 1997 Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Leave period I.

U. March 17-19, 1997 Conducted pre-deployment small arms re-qualifications at Pungo Small Arms Range.

V. March 27, 1997 Awards ceremony held onboard.

W. March 31, 1997 Conducted pre-deployment small arms re-qualifications at Pungo Small Arms Range.

X. April 1, 1997 Conducted pier side small arms ammunition deployment load out.

Y. April 4, 1997 Underway in VACAPES OPAREA for gun shoot and diesel trend analysis. Arrived NAB Little Creek, Va.

Z. April 7-8, 1997 Conducted pre-deployment small arms re-qualifications at Pungo Small Arms Range.

AA. April 7-11, 1997 Screw change out from traditional 5 blade propellor to new high speed six blade propellor. Engine modifications to add "Sprint Mode" enabling extra engine RPM's at top speed.

AB. April 9-11, 1997 Conducted semi-annual Physical Readiness Test (PRT).

AC. April 11-23, 1997 POM leave period II. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills inport 11 April.

AD. April 12-14, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills.

AE. April 16-18, 1997 Conducted shipboard deployment familiarization training with Special Operations Forces (SOF) A Team from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group.

AF. April 24, 1997 Conducted pre-deployment small arms re-qualifications at Pungo Small Arms Range.

AG. April 27-29, 1997 Daily underway trips, VACAPES OPAREA for deployment ammunition load out, underway gun shoot and small boat training with SOF A Team from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group.

AH. May 1, 1997 Deployed to Western Africa, Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea in support of Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR).

AI. May 1-9, 1997 Underway for trans-Atlantic passage to Las Palmas, Canary Islands with members of the SOF A Team from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group onboard under Operational Control (OPCON) of 2nd Fleet. Conducted refueling at sea (RAS) with USNS SATURN 3 May, flag hoist/flashlight drills 4 May, RAS/rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) transfer with USNS SATURN 6 May, General Quarters (Guns) walk through 7 May, General Quarters (Damage Control) walk through 8 May, RAS/RHIB operations with USNS SATURN 9 May.

AJ. May 10-12, 1997 Inport Las Palmas, Canary Islands for scheduled port visit. Shifted OPCON to Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR).

AK. May 12-14, 1997 Underway for Dakar, Senegal for scheduled port visit. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills 14 May.

AL. May 15, 1997 Inport Dakar, Senegal for scheduled port visit and cross training with SOF A Team from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group and Senegalese Special Forces.

AM. May 16, 1997 Commenced Exercise Flintlock '97 with USS THUNDERBOLT, SOF A Team from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group and the Senegalese Special Forces. Observing were representatives from the French Special Forces Command.

AN. May 19, 1997 Underway off the coast of Dakar for RHIB operations. Arrived Dakar, Senegal.

AO. May 20, 1997 Host Nation Personnel arrived for operational briefs and ship tours. Conducted pier side RHIB training.

AP. May 21, 1997 Underway off the coast of Dakar for night insertion/extraction exercise with joint Special Forces Team and RHIB operations.

AQ. May 22, 1997 Conducted underway RHIB operations. Arrived Dakar Senegal. Underway off the coast of Dakar for night insertion/extraction exercise with Joint Special Forces Team and RHIB operations.

AR. May 23, 1997 Underway off the coast of Dakar for night insertion/extraction exercise with Joint Special Forces Team and RHIB operations.

AS. May 24, 1997 Conducted underway RHIB operations, long range insert/extract training. Arrived Dakar, Senegal.

AT. May 25, 1997 Underway off the coast of Dakar for CRRC operations. Arrived Dakar, Senegal.

AU. May 26-29, 1997 Inport Dakar, Senegal. On operational hold by SOCEUR with two SOF A Teams from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group onboard, awaiting orders for possible deployment to Sierra Leone to evacuate U.S. Embassy civilian personnel during military coup. Conducted DCTT training, CPR training, anti-terrorism training, weapons training and mission planning.

AV. May 29-31 1997 Detaching orders promulgated from SOCEUR. Debarked SOF A Teams from the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group. Underway for Las Palmas, Canary Islands for scheduled port visit.

AW. June 1, 1997 Inport Las Palmas, Canary Islands for scheduled port visit.

AX. June 2, 1997 Underway for Santander, Spain for scheduled port visit.

AY. June 6, 1997 Inport Santander, Spain for scheduled port visit.

AZ. June 8, 1997 Underway for Cuxhaven, Germany for scheduled port visit. Transited English Channel and Dover Straits.

BA. June 11, 1997 Inport Cuxhaven, Germany for scheduled port visit.

BB. June 12, 1997 Underway for Gdynia, Poland for Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) '97 and scheduled port visit. Transited the Kiel Canal.

BC. June 13, 1997 Arrived Gdynia, Poland for participation in BALTOPS '97. Commanding Officer's official calls to BALTOPS '97 officials.

BD. June 14, 1997 Commenced ship's tours for general public in conjunction with BALTOPS '97, total of 1500 visitors. Embarked Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eight (EODMU 8). Commanding Officer attended luncheon onboard ORP Kopernik. Ship visited by Mr. Nicholas Rey, US Ambassador to Poland. Attended receptions held by the Polish and Danish navies.

BE. June 16, 1997 Underway for BALTOPS Phase I. Conducted tactical maneuvering exercises and gunnery exercises with Estonian patrol craft ENS SULEV, Lithuanian patrol craft LNS DZUKAS and German patrol craft FGS PASSAU.

BF. June 17, 1997 Conducted tow, be towed and rescue and assistance (R&A) exercise with Estonian patrol craft ENS SULEV. Commenced mine counter measure operations with EODMU 8.

BG. June 18, 1997 Conducted mine counter measure operations with EODMU 8.

BH. June 19, 1997 Conducted pass and review ceremony with USS ANZIO, senior U.S. Naval Vessel present at BALTOPS '97. End BALTOPS Phase I.

BI. June 20, 1997 Inport Kiel, Germany to participate in Kiel Week, an international maritime festival. Debark EODMU 8. Embarked SEAL Team Two detachment. Wardroom attended receptions held by the Polish, Russian, and the Netherlands navies. GMG2 (b) (6) re-enlistment held at the Kloster Brauerie in downtown Kiel. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 1200 visitors.

BJ. June 21, 1997 Commanding Officer attended receptions held by the Polish, Swedish, Danish navies and the final ceremony reception onboard USS ANZIO.

BK. June 22, 1997 Underway for BALTOPS Phase II. Transited to Bornholm Island for insertion, infiltration and extraction exercise with SEAL Team Two detachment on Christians Island. Stars and Stripes personnel embarked to conduct crew interviews and write article on Patrol Coastal Participation in BALTOPS '97. THUNDERBOLT awarded USCG Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal for participation in Operation Frontier Shield.

BL. June 23-25, 1997 Conducted SEAL/CRRC operations, insertion/extraction exercise, gunnery exercise in vicinity of Christians Island. Provided battle group electronic intelligence and communications intelligence for Blue Forces in BALTOPS '97 final battle problem. End BALTOPS Phase II.

BM. June 26, 1997 Inport Eckernforde, Germany for refueling and stores onload. Debark SEAL Team Two detachment and Stars and Stripes personnel. Underway for Gothenberg, Sweden for scheduled port visit.

BN. June 27, 1997 Inport Gothenberg, Sweden for scheduled port visit. Commanding Officer official calls to Deputy Governor of Gothenberg, Lord Mayor of Gothenberg, Head of Western Sweden Naval Division and Gothenberg Chief of Police. Return luncheon held onboard for Deputy Governor of Gothenberg, Lord Mayor of Gothenberg, Head of Western Sweden Naval Division, Gothenberg Chief of Police and Fire Marshal. Evening reception held for Lord Mayor of Gothenberg, Gothenberg Chief of Police and Fire Marshal and other military and civilian guests.

BO. June 28, 1997 LT (b) (6) reported aboard as prospective Chief Engineer. Crew had tours of Swedish assault boats and played soccer vs. Swedish police team.

BP. June 29, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 750 visitors. Underway for Paldiski, Estonia for scheduled port visit.

BQ. July 1, 1997 Inport Paldiski, Estonia for port visit. Embarked EODMU 8.

BR. July 3, 1997 Underway conducting mine hunting operations with EODMU 8 in Paldiski harbor. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills. Arrived Paldiski, Estonia.

BS. July 4, 1997 Observed Independence Day with full dress ship and ships picnic. LTJG (b) (6) detached, relieved by LT. (b) (6) (b) (6)

BT. July 6, 1997 Underway for Operation Baltic Challenge '97 en route to Kuressaare, Estonia.

BU. July 7, 1997 Rendezvoused with collection of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian patrol craft for Operation Baltic Challenge '97. Anchored off the coast of Kuressaare, Estonia.

BV. July 8, 1997 Baltic Challenge '97 Pre-sail Conference held. Conducted RHIB operations, ETT/DCTT drills.

BW. July 9, 1997 Underway for Paldiski, Estonia providing escort service for Military Sealift Command ships in conjunction with Operation Baltic Challenge '97.

BX. July 10, 1997 Inport Paldiski, Estonia. Debarked EODMU 8. Detached from Baltic Challenge '97. Underway for Tallinn, Estonia. Arrived Tallinn, Estonia. Commanding Officers official calls to U.S. Ambassador to Estonia and Estonian Navy CNO. Ship visited by Estonian Navy CNO. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 375 visitors.

BY. July 11, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills inport.

BZ. July 12, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public and Estonian Military, total of 275 visitors.

CA. July 14, 1997 Underway for Harnosand, Sweden for scheduled port visit. Arrived Harnosand, Sweden. Press conference held onboard with local newspaper and television station reporters. Commanding Officer official calls to Mayor of Harnosand and city officials. Luncheon hosted onboard for the Mayor of Harnosand and city officials. Evening reception held by Swedish Naval Command for THUNDERBOLT crew.

CB. July 15, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 425 visitors. Reception held onboard for Harnosand Mayor and local city and business officials.

CC. July 16, 1997 Special tours given to the Swedish Home Guard. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 300 visitors.

CD. July 17, 1997 Underway for Riga, Latvia for scheduled port visit and Joint Combat Exercise and Training (JCET). THUNDERBOLT is awarded the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Safety Award.

CE. July 18, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills.

CF. July 19, 1997 Arrived Riga, Latvia for port visit and JCET. Special Forces Mark V Detachment TWO, craft 963 and 964 (SOC MK V DET 2) arrived under tactical control of USS THUNDERBOLT. Arrival Conference held for JCET. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 130 visitors.

CG. July 20, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 600 visitors. Embarked SEAL Team Two detachment.

CH. July 21, 1997 Press Conference held onboard for local newspaper and television station reporters. Commanding Officer official calls on Deputy Chief of Armed Forces, Mayor of Riga, Commander Naval Forces Latvia and U. S. Ambassador to Latvia.

CI. July 22, 1997 Conducted ship tours for Latvian Navy. Conducted CRRC training with Latvian Special Forces and SEAL Team Two detachment.

CJ. July 23, 1997 Underway for local area operations. Conducted CRRC operations with Latvian Special Forces and SEAL Team Two detachment. Arrived Riga, Latvia.

CK. July 24, 1997 Underway for local area operations. Conducted CRRC insertion/extraction exercise with Latvian Special Forces and SEAL Team Two detachment. Arrived Riga, Latvia. Embarked Commander Special Boat Squadron Two Captain Wright and prospective Commander Special Boat Squadron Two Captain Paton to observe training exercise.

CL. July 25, 1997 Underway for final JCET. Conducted gunnery exercise and familiarization training for Latvian Special Forces. Conducted Maneuvering drills with SOC MK V DET 2. Conducted night insertion/extraction exercise with SEAL Team Two detachment and Latvian Special Forces.

CM. July 26, 1997 Recovered CRRC's, Rendezvoused with SOC MK V DET 2. Arrived Riga, Latvia.

CN. July 27, 1997 Commenced ship tours for the general public, total of 200 visitors. Debarked Commander Special Boat Squadron Two Captain Wright and prospective Commander Special Boat Squadron Two Captain Paton.

CO. July 28, 1997 Underway for gun shoot, towing exercise and underway replenishment training with Latvian Navy. Arrived Riga, Latvia.

CP. July 29, 1997 Post exercise debrief held with Latvians, SEAL Team Two and SOC MK V DET 2. Debarked SEAL Team Two detachment.

CQ. July 30, 1997 Underway for Klaipeda, Lithuania for scheduled port visit and JCET Exercise.

CR. July 31, 1997 Inport Klaipeda, Lithuania for port visit and JCET.

CS. August 2, 1997 Underway off the coast of Klaipeda for familiarization rides for Lithuanian Special forces, the Seventh Dragoons. Returned to Klaipeda, Lithuania.

CT. August 3, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 1400 visitors.

CU. August 4, 1997 Underway off the coast of Klaipeda to conduct

small boat training with the Seventh Dragoons. Arrived Klaipeda, Lithuania, conducted mission planning.

CV. August 5, 1997 Conducted Fleet Training Exercise (FTX) rehearsal. Underway off the coast of Klaipeda for Fleet Training Exercise (FTX). Observed 2 Year Anniversary of the delivery of USS THUNDERBOLT. Conducted insertion/extraction, direct action mission exercise with SOC MK V DET 2 and the Seventh Dragoons.

CW. August 6, 1997 Inport Klaipeda, Lithuania.

CX. August 7, 1997 Conducted Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) Team training and weapons familiarization with the Seventh Dragoons. Basketball competition, THUNDERBOLT vs. 7th Dragoons.

CY. August 8, 1997 Underway off the coast of Klaipeda for gun shoot and weapons familiarization for the Seventh Dragoons. Arrived Klaipeda, Lithuania.

CZ. August 9, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 270 visitors.

DA. August 10, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 520 visitors.

DB. August 11, 1997 Underway off the coast of Klaipeda for training with Lithuanian patrol craft LNS DZUKAS. Conducted R&A exercise and VBSS exercise with DZUKAS and the Seventh Dragoons. Arrived Klaipeda, Lithuania.

DC. August 12, 1997 Conducted pistol competition with the Seventh Dragoons. Held exercise debrief. Post operation ceremony and reception held by the Seventh Dragoons for THUNDERBOLT and SOC MK V DET 2. SOC MK V DET 2 departs.

DD. August 13, 1997 Underway for Helsinki, Finland for scheduled port visit.

DE. August 14, 1997 Inport Helsinki, Finland. Commanding Officer's official calls to Helsinki city Mayor and officials. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 200 visitors. Conducted Press Conference onboard for local news paper and national television station reporters. Held pier side reception for Mayor of Helsinki and various military and civilian officials.

DF. August 15, 1997 Hosted luncheon onboard for Mayor of Helsinki. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 180 visitors.

DG. August 16, 1997 Commenced guided ship tours for American Embassy Personnel. Commenced ship tours, total of 80 visitors. Ten (10) crew members participated in the Helsinki City Marathon and three (3) crew members participated in the 10k race sponsored by the 3M Company and the Finnish Sports League.

DH. August 17, 1997 Commenced guided tours for 3M Company and Finnish Sport League Personnel. Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 700 visitors.

DI. August 18, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 175 visitors. Underway for Warnemunde, Germany for scheduled port visit and JCET.

DJ. August 20, 1997 Inport Warnemunde, Germany for port visit and JCET. Conducted final planning conference on FGS ZOBEL for JCET. Commanding Officer official calls on Warnemunde Naval Base CO, FPB Flotilla Commander and Lord Mayor of Rostock.

DK. August 21, 1997 Underway for local area operations. Returned to Warnemunde, Germany.

DL. August 22, 1997 Conducted operational safety stand down.

DM. August 23, 1997 Crew toured city of Berlin sponsored by German Navy.

DN. August 25, 1997 Commanding Officer held luncheon onboard for Warnemunde Naval Base CO, FPB Flotilla Commander and Lord Mayor of Rostock. Crew toured 73rd Fighter Squadron. German Navy hosted soccer game vs. THUNDERBOLT and crew hosted post game cook out.

DO. August 26, 1997 Underway for local area operations. Conducted light line exercise and VBSS exercise. Moored alongside FGS ZOBEL. Conducted maneuvering drills and small arms shoot with FGS ZOBEL. Arrived Warnemunde, Germany. THUNDERBOLT vs. German Navy in Basketball.

DP. August 27, 1997 Underway for Visby, Sweden for scheduled port visit. Arrive Visby, Sweden.

DQ. August 28, 1997 Commanding Officer's Call with the County Governor, Gotland Military Commander, Chief of the Drocese Chancellery and the Chairman of Municipal Council. Held Commanding Officer's luncheon onboard for the County Governor, Gotland Military Commander, Chief of the Drocese Chancellery and the Chairman of Municipal Council. Press conference held onboard with local news paper and television reporters. Reception held onboard for various city and military officials. SOC MK V DET 2

arrives.

DR. August 29, 1997 Wardroom luncheon with the Gotland Military Commander and his staff at the Gotland Military Command. Tour of Swedish Northern Naval Command facilities.

DS. Aug 30-31 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 230 visitors. Firepower demonstration by Swedish Northern Naval Command and Coastal Defense Unit/Artillery Battalion attended by members of the crew.

DT. September 1, 1997 Underway for Fishguard, Wales. SOC MK V DET 2 departs.

DU. September 2, 1997 Transited the Kiel Canal.

DV. September 3, 1997 Underway for Fishguard, Wales for scheduled port visit. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills. Transited the Dover Straits and English Channel.

DW. September 5, 1997 Arrive Portsmouth, England for unscheduled stop to avoid poor weather and heavy seas. Underway for Fishguard, Wales.

DX. September 6, 1997 Inport Fishguard, Wales for port visit. Entering port delayed due to honoring Wales' hour of silence during the funeral for the Princess of Wales. Commanding Officer's official calls on Fishguard Mayor and City Council.

DY. September 7, 1997 Commenced ship tours for general public, total of 100 visitors. Reception held at the Fishguard Bay Hotel with various city officials and townspeople attending.

DZ. September 8, 1997 Underway for Poole, England for scheduled port visit. Transited English Channel. Conducted flare training.

EA. September 9, 1997 Inport Poole, England. SOC MK V DET 2 arrives. Awards ceremony held.

EB. September 10, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills inport.

EC. September 14, 1997 SOC MK V DET 2 departed.

ED. September 15, 1997 Underway for Antwerp, Belgium for scheduled port visit. Transited the Dover Straits.

EE. September 16, 1997 Anchored at the mouth of the Westerschedal River. Underway from anchorage, transiting the Westerschedal River en route to Antwerp, Belgium. Arrive

Antwerp, Belgium.

EF. September 17-18, 1997 Conducted inport ETT/DCTT drills.

EG. September 19, 1997 Conducted ordnance safety stand down. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills. U.S. Ambassador to Belgium arrived for tour of ship. Reception held at the American Belgium Association for Wardroom and Chief's Mess. Observed Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day (POW/MIA).

EH. September 21, 1997 Underway for Cherbourg, France for scheduled port visit. Transited the Dover Straits. Arrived Cherbourg, France.

EI. September 22, 1997 Commanding Officer's official calls on Mayor of Cherbourg.

EJ. September 25, 1997 Underway for Santander, Spain for scheduled port visit.

EK. September 26, 1997 Conducted gun shoot. Arrived Santander, Spain.

EL. September 29, 1997 Prospective Commanding Officer Daniel P. Shaw arrived for underway turn over observations in accordance with requirements of Navy Regulations.

EM. September 30, 1997 Underway for London, England for scheduled port visit and participation in International Maritime Defense Exhibition (IMDEX) '97 and Pre Light Off Training I (PLOT I). Conducted chaff shoot. Commenced turnover with prospective Commanding Officer.

EN. October 1, 1997 Conducted ETT/DCTT drills in preparation for PLOT I.

EO. October 3, 1997 Transited the Dover Straits and Thames River. Arrive London, England for participation in IMDEX '97 and PLOT I evaluation.

EP. October 4, 1997 Prospective Commanding Officer Daniel P. Shaw departed.

EQ. October 6, 1997 Commenced Pre Light Off Training (PLOT), phase I. Conducted inport ETT/DCTT drills for PLOT I. Wardroom attended reception held on HMS LANCASTER.

ER. October 7, 1997 Conducted inport ETT/DCTT drills for PLOT I. Commenced IMDEX '97 delegate tours, total of 330 visitors. Attended reception held by British Royal Navy at the Queen's

House. Celebrated USS THUNDERBOLT 2 year commissioning anniversary.

ES. October 8, 1997 Commenced IMDEX '97 delegate tours, total 400 visitors. Conducted PLOT I closing brief. Results of PLOT I were that THUNDERBOLT was graded as effective in all major areas.

ET. October 9, 1997 Commenced IMDEX '97 tours for the general public, total of 270 visitors.

EU. October 10, 1997 Ship is visited by Admiral Reason, CINCLANTFLT. Conducted IMDEX '97 tours for the general public, total 70 visitors.

EV. October 12, 1997 Underway for Lisbon, Portugal for scheduled port visit. Transited the Dover Straits. Observed Columbus Day.

EW. October 15, 1997 Arrive Lisbon, Portugal for scheduled port visit.

EX. October 16-26, 1997 Underway for Little Creek, Va. Shifted Operational Control from Special Operations Command Europe to Commander Second Fleet. Conducted ETT/DCTT drills and gun shoot 17 October, RAS with USS MONONGAHELIA 18 October, maneuvering drills, semaphore training with USS CYCLONE and USS TEMPEST and RAS with USS MONONGAHELIA 19 October, RAS with USS MONONGAHELIA 21 and 23 October, RAS with USS MONONGAHELIA and gun shoot 24 October.

EY. October 26, 1997 Inport NAB Little Creek, Va. LTJG (b) (6) reported aboard as prospective Operations Officer.

EZ. October 26-November 6, 1997 Post deployment leave and stand down period I.

FA. November 4-6, 1997 Conducted semi-annual PRT. Conducted Change Of Command rehearsal.

FB. November 7, 1997 Change Of Command ceremony held in Special Boat Unit Twenty Hangar Bay. LCDR Brad Williamson is relieved by LT Daniel P. Shaw.

FC. November 7-18, 1997 Post deployment leave and stand down period II.

FD. November 11, 1997 Observed Veterans Day.

FE. November 19, 1997 Underway for Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown for post deployment ammunition offload. Conducted diesel trend analysis. Arrived Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown.

Underway for Little Creek, Va. Conducted STT drills and ESWS training. Arrived Little Creek, Va. LT (b) (6) detached, relieved by LTJG (b) (6) QM1 (b) (6) (b) (6) re-enlistment held onboard.

FF. November 24, 1997 Underway for Colonna's Shipyard, Norfolk, VA. for Drydock Phase Maintenance Availability (DPMA). Arrived Colonna's Shipyard, Norfolk, Va.

FG. December 7, 1997 THUNDERBOLT is put into the Drydock with USS WHIRLWIND and McFARLAND (Army Corps Of Engineers dredge).

FH. December 17-27, 1997 Holiday Leave period I.

FI. December 25, 1997 Observed Christmas Day.

FJ. December 27-31, 1997 Holiday Leave period II.

PART 3: NARRATIVE

USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12) commenced the new year transiting from Nassau, Bahamas to Key West, FL. The officers and crew enjoyed a few days of liberty before commencing counter drug operations (CDOPS) in the Florida Straits, Lower Bahama Islands and the Caribbean. After pulling back into Nassau, Bahamas, THUNDERBOLT hosted her first all hands reception onboard for the U.S. Ambassador to the Bahama Islands. The success of this venture established a precedent that enabled THUNDERBOLT to complete many such diplomatic events throughout. During the second part of the CDOPS THUNDERBOLT conducted first ever proof of mission concept flight operations between a CYCLONE class Patrol Coastal and a United States Coast Guard helicopter. THUNDERBOLT maintained a green deck while the Coast Guard helicopter successfully completed numerous approaches to her stern. The deck crew then successfully transferred cargo to and from the THUNDERBOLT's deck with the helicopter, proving that a CYCLONE class Patrol Coastal could be re-supplied via vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

Upon her return to Little Creek on 13 February, THUNDERBOLT commenced a rigorous two and one half month Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) period in preparation for her maiden 6 month deployment to Europe. During this period THUNDERBOLT completed all of her required pre overseas evolutions and training requirements as well as received major engineering upgrades. All hands were also able to enjoy a few weeks of leave before departure.

On May 1 THUNDERBOLT began her transit of the Atlantic Ocean under Operational Control (OPCON) of 2nd Fleet and in company with USS CYCLONE (PC-1), USS TEMPEST (PC-2) and USNS SATURN (T-AFS-10). This was the beginning of six months of independent steaming throughout Western Africa, Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea in support of Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR). THUNDERBOLT was again testing uncharted waters by being the first CYCLONE class Patrol Coastal to embark a U.S. Army Special Operations Force A Team from the 3rd Special Forces for the entire trans-Atlantic voyage.

The first port visit was in Las Palmas, Canary Islands from 10 to 12 May where the crew was able to get some rest and relaxation after ten arduous days at sea before heading to Africa for a Joint Combined Exercise and Training (JCET) mission. THUNDERBOLT shifted OPCON from 2nd Fleet to SOCEUR.

On May 15 THUNDERBOLT moored in Dakar, Senegal and the next day commenced Exercise Flintlock '97 with the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group and the Senegalese Special Forces. Observing the exercise were numerous members of the French Special Forces Command. Despite finding the Senegalese Special Forces in need of much training and their Navy depleted and in dire need of money and maintenance, THUNDERBOLT and the Third

Special Forces were able to meet the challenge working from the ground up over a two week period to train all concerned in the basics of mission planning, combat river raiding craft (CRRC) operations, rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) operations and beach insertions and extractions. The two weeks culminated in a successful night time, long range insertion and extraction of a combined U.S. Army/Senegalese Special Forces team.

Upon completion of Exercise Flintlock '97, THUNDERBOLT was preparing to depart en route for a second visit to the Canary Islands when SOCEUR put an operational hold (OPHOLD) into effect, holding the ship in Dakar for possible action in response to military unrest in nearby Sierra Leone. While on OPHOLD, THUNDERBOLT and the U.S. Army 3rd Special Forces Group conducted various training evolutions and preparations for possible deployment to Sierra Leone to evacuate U.S. Embassy personnel. THUNDERBOLT was given detaching orders on May 29th and authorized to continue on her original assigned orders. The U.S. Army Third Special Forces detached and departed Dakar, Senegal for the continental U.S. (CONUS).

THUNDERBOLT visited a few non operational ports en route to Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) '97. Heading north through the English Channel/Dover Straits, THUNDERBOLT spent the transit time in preparation for her first operational exercise as a Special Forces asset in a Sixth Fleet operation. On June 12 THUNDERBOLT transited the Kiel Canal and arrived the next day in Gdynia, Poland for the opening weekend of BALTOPS '97.

BALTOPS '97, which consisted of 13 Nations and 49 ships, submarines and aircraft, began inport Gdynia, Poland with the focus on interaction between the military personnel of the 13 represented nations. This included various sporting events, receptions and ship tours. A sense of camaraderie was established between crews from all the nations that would last throughout the exercise and set the tone for many positive events throughout the deployment. June 16 kicked off Phase I of the underway portion of BALTOPS '97 with THUNDERBOLT assigned to the mine hunter and patrol craft group. The focus of the week was operational training in tactical areas requiring cooperation between ships of different nationalities. THUNDERBOLT provided a wealth of information from her base of expertise as she was the first U. S. patrol craft to participate. Crew emphasis was placed on professionalism and precision in order to provide the most positive impression for foreign navies to observe.

On June 20 THUNDERBOLT arrived in Kiel, Germany to participate in Kiel Week, an International Maritime Festival which boasted several receptions by various countries participating in both BALTOPS '97 and Kiel Week. The social aspects of BALTOPS '97 were resumed. Additionally, several lessons learned meetings were held between participating ships. THUNDERBOLT focused on the following weeks tasks associated with

Phase II of the exercise.

On June 22 THUNDERBOLT got underway en route to Bornholm Island to conduct a Direct Action Insertion/Extraction Exercise by an embarked SEAL Det. This was the beginning of the final battle problem of Phase II of BALTOPS '97 and also THUNDERBOLT'S first opportunity to conduct Special Operations as she would in a real world situation. Mission planning and rehearsal with embarked members of SEAL Team TWO and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 8 allowed for the flawless execution of the operation which included intelligence collection and dissemination. As the final battle problem progressed, THUNDERBOLT used her organic electronic intelligence and communication intelligence collecting capabilities to assist the Blue Force battle group in their dominance over the Red Forces.

On July 6 THUNDERBOLT got underway from Paldiski, Estonia to participate in Baltic Challenge '97. THUNDERBOLT was the Officer in Tactical Control (OTC) of 7 Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian patrol craft providing escort services for Military Sealift Command ships entering the Baltic sea and transiting to the harbor of Paldiski. In the week prior to the exercise, THUNDERBOLT had a major hand in making the exercise possible by conducting mine hunting operations with EODMU 8 in the former Soviet harbor of Paldiski. As the OTC, THUNDERBOLT conducted extensive training exercises with these fledgling navies which resulted in an extremely successful operation.

On July 14 THUNDERBOLT arrived in Harnosand, Sweden where she was the centerpiece for the Swedish Maritime Festival. While in Harnosand, a luncheon was held onboard for the Mayor of Harnosand, followed by a reception at the Swedish Military Command.

On July 19 THUNDERBOLT arrived in Riga, Latvia along with the Special Operations Craft Mark Five Detachment TWO (SOC MK V DET 2) to take part in a Joint Combat Exercise Training (JCET) with the Latvian Navy and Special Forces. During the entire week THUNDERBOLT conducted daily underway training with the MK V's and Latvians building up to the night time insertion/extraction exercise on July 25 and 26. The exercise was observed by Commander, Special Boat Squadron TWO and his relief. After the exercise, THUNDERBOLT conducted more underway training with the Latvian Navy to include more conventional blue water naval operations.

The succession of JCETs continued on July 31 when THUNDERBOLT arrived Klaipeda, Lithuania to train with the Lithuanian Navy, Lithuanian Special Forces (the Seventh Dragoons), SOC MK V DET 2 and SEAL Team TWO members. The next two weeks consisted of extensive Special Operations training as well as blue water navy training with the Lithuanian Navy. During these weeks members of the THUNDERBOLT developed close relations with the Lithuanians. The Lithuanians were, of all

countries encountered on the 1997 deployment, the most eager to learn, the most enthusiastic to train with, and the most appreciative of the training they received. The JCET ended with several international competitions in soccer, basketball and pistol shooting, along with a surprise reception for all the Americans in country, hosted by the Seventh Dragoons.

On August 14 while in Helsinki, Finland THUNDERBOLT hosted a reception on the pier for the Helsinki City Mayor and many high ranking civilian and military officials. As an expression of their gratitude and respect, Finnish officials from the 3M Corporation and the Finnish Sport League sponsored the THUNDERBOLT team that was to participate in the Helsinki City Marathon on 16 August. 10 crew members began the race and 9 finished. A 10K run and 3K run were also held. The next day THUNDERBOLT's crew furthered relations with Finland by giving their sponsors special guided tours of the ship.

On 20 August THUNDERBOLT arrived in Warnemunde, Germany for a port visit and JCET. On 21 and 26 August, THUNDERBOLT was underway for local area operations with German Patrol Boat FGS ZOBEL to conduct light line exercises and VBSS training. THUNDERBOLT anchored alongside ZOBEL then got underway and proceeded to do maneuvering drills and small arms training before returning to Warnemunde. The week of training with the German patrol boat squadrons rekindled relations between THUNDERBOLT's crew and the German crews that were first encountered in Kiel Germany. The JCET ended, once again with a full day of Athletic competitions in soccer and basketball and then a co-hosted traditional American bar-b-que.

On 27 August THUNDERBOLT got underway and arrived in Visby, Sweden for the first visit by a U. S. ship to the Swedish resort on Gotland Island. SOC MK V Det 2 was also present. The Commanding Officer made official calls on the County Governor, Gotland Military Commander, Chief of Diocese Chancellery and Chairman of Municipal Council. Upon his return a reception was hosted by THUNDERBOLT for the same group as well as other members of the Gotland Military Command and the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden. The social events continued with several tours of the Swedish military facilities on Gotland Island as well as ship tours for the Swedish military and for the general public. THUNDERBOLT was well cared for by the Swedes on their vacation island and the crew enjoyed a week of relaxation.

On September 1 THUNDERBOLT got underway for Fishguard, Wales via the Kiel Canal. The 10 hour Kiel Canal transit was completed on 2 September by an all enlisted watch team with the CO and Chief Engineer as safety observers while the Operations Officer and Weapons Officer completed the 100 kilometer transit via mountain bike through the German countryside. THUNDERBOLT transited the Dover Straits the next day en route to Fishguard, Wales. Halfway through the English Channel THUNDERBOLT received

word from NAVLANTMETOCEN, the U. S. Navy regional weather center, that the weather ahead was unfavorable for further transit and reversed course to head for Portsmouth, England.

On September 6 THUNDERBOLT arrived Fishguard, Wales but was delayed from entering port due to a country wide hour of silence in conjunction with the funeral of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales. Once inport THUNDERBOLT was welcomed with open arms from the entire community during their celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the last invasion of Wales. THUNDERBOLT's visit was especially significant since that invasion was led by an American officer. A reception was held at the Fishguard Bay Hotel with various city officials and townspeople celebrating the peaceful return of the Americans as THUNDERBOLT was also the first U.S Ship ever to visit Fishguard, Wales. The days events closed with a tour of the various town pubs where the citizens of Wales once again proved their hospitality towards the visiting THUNDERBOLT Sailors and officers.

THUNDERBOLT next port visit was Poole, England for an extensive in port training period in preparations for the upcoming engineering plant assessment to be conducted in London, England. SOC MK V DET 2 rendezvoused with THUNDERBOLT outside of Poole, England prior to entering.

On September 15 THUNDERBOLT got underway for Antwerp, Belgium for a port visit and further engineering assessment preparations. THUNDERBOLT anchored at the mouth of the Westerschedal River in order to swap out pilots from ocean pilot to river pilot before beginning the 10 hour transit of the Westerschedal River to the first set of locks leading into a controlled tidal basin. Once inside the basin, THUNDERBOLT maneuvered through various narrow channels and locks to her final destination moored to the Wilemn Dock in downtown Antwerp. The transit was possibly the most difficult of the entire deployment for the entire crew as it combined unfamiliar, narrow navigational passes with less than favorable weather conditions. While inport Antwerp, THUNDERBOLT conducted inport casualty control drills and a safety stand down again in preparation for the upcoming assessment. A reception was held at the American Belgium Association for the wardroom and chief's mess where THUNDERBOLT was toasted by the president of the association as a formidable presence of war fighting capabilities in their country.

On September 20, THUNDERBOLT got underway for Cherbourg, France but the adverse weather which made the transit into the tidal basin so difficult returned and high winds made it impossible for THUNDERBOLT to navigate the narrow locks. The next day THUNDERBOLT got underway with the assistance of 2 tugs to help pass through the narrow opening leading out of the tidal basin and headed for Cherbourg, France. THUNDERBOLT transited the Dover Straits and arrived in Cherbourg, France. While inport

Cherbourg, final preparations were conducted for the upcoming engineering assessment. During the stay crew members were exposed to French culture and society as THUNDERBOLT's visit coincided with the annual wine festival in Cherbourg.

On September 26 LT Daniel P. Shaw, the Prospective Commanding Officer, arrived in Santander, Spain to meet THUNDERBOLT and ride the ship to London, England and begin the turnover process with LCDR Brad Williamson. On September 30 THUNDERBOLT got underway for London, England. While in transit THUNDERBOLT conducted her final underway drills before being evaluated by the assessment team waiting in London. Commanding Officers' turnover was also conducted and each department head spent considerable time with the Prospective Commanding Officer. THUNDERBOLT transited the Dover Straits and began the 12 hour passage up the Thames River to West India Docks, London, England. The London visit wrapped up the Commanding Officer turnover process and began the engineering assessment and THUNDERBOLT's participation in the International Maritime Defense Expedition (IMDEX) '97. On October 4 the Prospective Commanding Officer LT Shaw returned to CONUS to complete his training track before assuming command.

The Pre-Light Off Training I (PLOT I) assessment began on 6 October with inport damage control drills and an overall assessment of the material and administrative workings of the Engineering department. THUNDERBOLT was graded as overall effective at the end of PLOT I. The crew was then immersed in the events of IMDEX '97. On October 7 THUNDERBOLT celebrated the 2 year commissioning anniversary with a cake cutting ceremony on the messdecks. A reception was held onboard HMS LANCASTER and THUNDERBOLT was then opened for tours. Tour visitors included several senior military officials from all over the world and a very special visit by CINCLANTFLT, Admiral Reason. During his visit he encouraged the Sailors of THUNDERBOLT to keep up their impressive work because it was definitely being noticed throughout Europe. In his visit with the Wardroom he urged everyone to pursue their education throughout their career.

On October 12 THUNDERBOLT transitted the Thames River and Dover Straits en route to the final port visit of the deployment in Lisbon, Portugal and on October 16 THUNDERBOLT got underway from Lisbon to rendezvous with USS CYCLONE (PC 1), USS TEMPEST (PC 2) and USS MONOGAHELA (AO 178). The transit back across the Atlantic ocean was filled with turbulent weather that forced several diversions towards the South in order to avoid bad seas. All the while the officers and crew of THUNDERBOLT were preparing for the upcoming change of command. On October 26 THUNDERBOLT detached from her escorts and arrived Little Creek to a warm homecoming reception. The post deployment stand down period began and while half of the crew enjoyed leave, the other half completed the semi-annual physical readiness test (PRT). The

Prospective Commanding Officer, LT Shaw, reported aboard 31 October and completed his turnover process with LCDR Williamson.

On November 7 the change of command ceremony was held for LCDR Brad Williamson who was relieved by LT Daniel P. Shaw in the Special Boat Unit 20 hangar bay (due again to the inclement weather). The former Commander, Special Boat Squadron TWO, Captain Wright was the guest speaker and delivered an address that was filled with praise for THUNDERBOLT's accomplishments during the deployment. After the ceremony and a brief reception, the second half of the crew began their leave and stand down period.

Brief preparations for a post deployment dry dock phase maintenance availability (DPMA) were completed during November and on the 24, THUNDERBOLT departed Little Creek harbor for Colonna's Shipyard along with USS WHIRLWIND (PC 11). En route THUNDERBOLT completed a navigation check ride by the Operations Officer from Special Boat Squadron. THUNDERBOLT and WHIRLWIND joined together to share watch standing responsibilities while in the ship yard. On the 7 December THUNDERBOLT was put into dry dock with WHIRLWIND and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge, McFarland. During the rest of December, THUNDERBOLT held a command Christmas party onboard the Spirit of Norfolk, a dinner cruise ship home ported on the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, Virginia. After the party, the holiday season was celebrated with two more leave periods for the crew.